

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 005823

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR PRM AND NEA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREF](#) [PREL](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [IS](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: MONITORING AND EVALUATING SEEDS OF PEACE'S
COEXISTENCE CENTER IN JERUSALEM

REF: STATE 148171

1. AS REQUESTED REFTTEL, REGIONAL REFCOORD MONITORED PRM-FUNDED ACTIVITIES AT SEEDS OF PEACE'S JERUSALEM CENTER FOR COEXISTENCE ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2002. WE UNDERSTAND PRM/ANE MONITORED PRM-FUNDED ACTIVITIES AT THE SEEDS SUMMER CAMP IN MAINE AND THEREFORE ARE REPORTING ONLY ON ACTIVITIES AT THE JERUSALEM CENTER FOR COEXISTENCE. REPORT IS KEYED TO QUESTIONS PROVIDED REFTTEL.

A. ON SEPTEMBER 5, REFCOORD MET WITH SEEDS OF PEACE'S COEXISTENCE CENTER PROGRAM DIRECTOR NED LAZARUS AND SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER JEN MARLOWE. SEEDS OF PEACE VICE PRESIDENT AND COEXISTENCE DIRECTOR BILL MCLAUGHLIN HAS BEEN ABSENT FROM JERUSALEM SINCE JUNE 2002, DUE TO HEALTH PROBLEMS. OTHER PROGRAM STAFF AT THE COEXISTENCE CENTER INCLUDE: DR. REUVEN BARNEIS, SAMI AL-JUNDI, SUZAN KHATIB AND ETHAN SCHECHTER. TWO ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF (A RECEPTIONIST AND JANITOR) ALSO WORK AT THE CENTER.

B. SEEDS OF PEACE IS DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB OF PROMOTING COEXISTENCE UNDER VERY DIFFICULT POLITICAL AND SECURITY CONDITIONS. IT HAS REVAMPED ITS APPROACH TO COEXISTENCE PROGRAMMING TO ACCOMMODATE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON THE ABILITY OF PALESTINIANS TO TRAVEL, BRINGING SEEDS FACILITATORS TO PALESTINIAN YOUTH AND USING ELECTRONIC MEDIA TO KEEP CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION OPEN BETWEEN ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN YOUTH. MOREOVER, WITH A WELL-TRAINED AND ENERGETIC STAFF IN JERUSALEM AND STRONG SUPPORT FROM BOTH ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS, SEEDS OF PEACE IS WELL POSITIONED TO CARRY OUT THE SENSITIVE YET ESSENTIAL TASK OF TOLERANCE AND COEXISTENCE BUILDING. IF PRM REMAINS SATISFIED WITH PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THIS GRANT, REFCOORD STRONGLY RECOMMENDS PRM CONSIDER FUNDING SIMILAR ACTIVITIES IN FY2003.

C. REFCOORD VISITED THE COEXISTENCE CENTER JUST AS SEEDS STAFF WERE REGROUPING FROM THEIR SUMMER CAMP EFFORTS. THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF THE PRM GRANT (MAY-AUGUST) WERE FOCUSED SOLELY ON SELECTING AND PREPARING PALESTINIAN YOUTH FOR THE SUMMER CAMP (INCLUDING HOLDING ORIENTATION MEETINGS WITH OLDER SEEDS); FACILITATING THE YOUTHS' COEXISTENCE ACTIVITIES AT THE CAMP; AND ORGANIZING TWO POST-CAMP MEETINGS, WHERE NEW SEEDS COULD MEET THEIR "PEER SUPPORTS," OLDER SEEDS WHO HAVE STAYED ACTIVE IN COEXISTENCE PROGRAMS AND ARE EAGER TO ENCOURAGE NEW SEEDS TO DO AS WELL. IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, THE COEXISTENCE CENTER WAS JUST BEGINNING TO PLAN ITS AUTUMN PROGRAMMING. SEEDS STAFF WERE ESPECIALLY EAGER TO BROADEN THEIR COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES, PLANNING TO BRING TOGETHER ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN YOUTH TO GATHER DONATIONS FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUTH IN JAFFA. (NOTE: SEPARATE FROM THIS GRANT, SEEDS ALSO HOPES TO DEVELOP COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES IN PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS, AND LIKELY WILL SEEK PRM FUNDING FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES). REFCOORD WILL MONITOR COEXISTENCE CENTER ACTIVITIES AGAIN IN LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER, TO ENSURE THAT ACTIVITIES FUNDED BY THE GRANT WERE HELD AS PLANNED.

D. CURRENT VIOLENCE, TENSIONS AND PHYSICAL BARRIERS (CHECKPOINTS AND CURFEWS) BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS DEEPLY AFFECT SEEDS OF PEACE'S ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT COEXISTENCE PROGRAMS. CURRENTLY, ONLY PALESTINIANS WHO HOLD JERUSALEM ID'S ARE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO THE COEXISTENCE CENTER, LOCATED IN EAST JERUSALEM. FOR THIS REASON, SEEDS CONSCIOUSLY SELECTED JERUSALEM ID HOLDERS FOR THE FIVE SUMMER CAMP SLOTS PAID FOR WITH PRM FUNDING, TO ENSURE THAT THE PRM-FUNDED CAMPERS WOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN FOLLOW-ON COEXISTENCE ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE 2002-2003 SCHOOL YEAR. IN ORDER TO REACH PALESTINIAN SEEDS WHO RESIDE OUTSIDE JERUSALEM, SEEDS HAS SHIFTED PROGRAMMING TO AREAS OUTSIDE JERUSALEM, HOLDING PRE-CAMP WORKSHOPS IN THE SUMMER OF 2002 IN GAZA, RAMALLAH, JENIN AND BETHLEHEM. SEEDS RELIES GREATLY ON ITS TWO INTERNATIONAL STAFF (LAZARUS AND MARLOWE) TO TRAVEL TO PALESTINIAN TOWNS, CITIES AND REFUGEE CAMPS TO HOLD FOLLOW-ON COEXISTENCE ACTIVITIES WITH PALESTINIAN YOUTH WHO ARE UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO JERUSALEM. SUCH ACTIVITIES INCLUDE VIDEO DIALOGUE, INTERNET DIALOGUE AND THE DIARIES PROJECT AND OLIVE BRANCH REPORTING.

E. THE COEXISTENCE CENTER STAFF SEEMS TO BE FULLY AND GAINFULLY EMPLOYED. GIVEN CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON PALESTINIAN TRAVEL WITHIN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA AND TO JERUSALEM, SEEDS' TWO INTERNATIONAL STAFF ARE REQUIRED TO

SPEND MUCH OF THEIR TIME TRAVELING TO REACH PALESTINIAN YOUTH WHO WOULD OTHERWISE REMAIN ISOLATED FROM SEEDS PROGRAMMING. SEEDS PROBABLY COULD DO AN EVEN BETTER JOB OF REACHING PALESTINIAN YOUTH IF IT HAD AN ADDITIONAL WORKING-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICER, RATHER THAN A JERUSALEM-BASED VICE PRESIDENT.

1F. THE COEXISTENCE CENTER'S OFFICE IS SPACIOUS AND WELL EQUIPPED. EQUIPMENT APPEARED TO BE IN WORKING ORDER AND USED ON A REGULAR BASIS. NONE OF THE EQUIPMENT WAS PURCHASED WITH USG FUNDS.

1G. N/A

1H. IF FUTURE FUNDING IS PROVIDED FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEE YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN SEEDS OF PEACE ACTIVITIES, REFCOORD RECOMMENDS THAT PRM WORK WITH SEEDS AND APPROPRIATE PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS TO ENSURE THAT NON-JERUSALEM RESIDENTS ALSO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE SUMMER CAMP AND FOLLOW-ON COEXISTENCE ACTIVITIES. PROMOTION OF TOLERANCE AND PROMOTION IS TOO IMPORTANT A POLICY GOAL TO LIMIT PARTICIPATION ONLY TO JERUSALEM ID HOLDERS.

12. CONGEN JERUSALEM CLEARED THIS CABLE.

GNEHM